

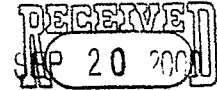


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PORTLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2946
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208-2946

SEP 18 2000

Reply to
Attention of:

Engineering and Construction Division



Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency CERCLA Docket Office, 5201G
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in response to your notice in the Federal Register dated July 27, 2000, regarding the proposed action to place Portland Harbor sediments in the Willamette River, Portland, Oregon on the National Priorities List under the Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). I understand the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to investigate the site further to determine if the harbor sediments pose an adverse risk to human health and the environment.

I concur that the contaminant levels found in some sediments in Portland Harbor are elevated. I also believe that the contaminants may be from a variety of sources and may present an adverse risk to human health and the environment. EPA's evaluation of sediment contamination through the Hazard Ranking System justifies further investigation of the site for remediation under CERCLA. It is my hope that we can work collaboratively with your agency in order to resolve the numerous and complex problems associated with the harbor sediments.

The harbor is the focus of intense and often conflicting public and private interest for development, cleanup, dredging, and restoration. The Willamette River is an important economic resource, providing a deep draft navigation channel and is recognized as an important transportation hub for industry and commerce in the Pacific Northwest. The river also provides a migratory corridor for both juvenile and adult anadromous fish and provides habitat for several anadromous fish species.

We would like to work with you to explore ways to remediate contaminated sediments in the Willamette River. We hope this will be a collaborative process with all stakeholders that have jurisdiction or use the river resource. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers alone has a major navigation project and flood control authority in the harbor and Willamette Basin, Clean Water Act regulatory authority, and an ecosystem restoration opportunity under the Environmental Dredging Authority as outlined in Section 224 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. We hope to work with EPA and other stakeholders to manage these authorities in conjunction with EPA's CERCLA investigation. At this time, we are having internal discussions on policy and procedures on how to proceed in developing a comprehensive plan to address contaminated sediment in the Willamette River and how to work with potential partners and

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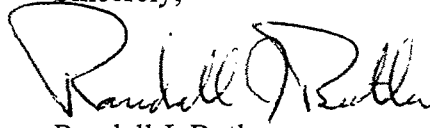


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other stakeholders. We hope to work with you in managing the NPL site so our authorities can work together for the public good.

Questions concerning our comments or other Portland Harbor issues should be directed to Michael Gross of my staff at (503) 808-4913.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall J. Butler". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and "B".

Randall J. Butler
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer